

# HOW-WITHIN-A-WHOA!

Jessi Cruickshank gone from talking about The Hills to living it?



SHINAN GOVANI

is one of the hosts of MTV Canada gone from covering *The Hills* to living a life out of *The Hills*? Wanting to be **Lauren Conrad**, such-hyped show's flaxen lead-actress, who likes to wear headbands and baby-dolls and every colour ever find in a Smartie pack, is the overnight darlings of the show to scene.

is chiefly for a house-of-freaks chatfest that she helms with **one Levy's** nebbish dynamo on — a chatfest that, with urgency, week after too-short dissects the goings-on of a reality show that is like the *smoke/Bonanza/Facts of Life/Boat/Melrose Place* (oh, but so more) of the junior gen.

anyway, there our Jessi was other night at a party that attracted young billionaire **Reinhardt**, one of the more

secondary characters in the zeitgeist-defining show. A minor-league baseball player but a major-league partier, he gained some fame as one of Lauren Conrad's boy-toys. But here in Toronto? He gained points with Jessi!

"I couldn't make this stuff up," reports our source about the awfully heroic scene that unfolded at Cheval, the nightclub on King.

Jessi, I'm told, danced "all night" with Doug in his VIP booth and periodically he even "crawled over fans into the DJ booth to dedicate songs to her, including **Usher's Love in the Club**." Every so often he would shout, "This is for my girl, Jessi," while her MTV cohorts rallied around and cheered at the top of their lungs.

Was it unscripted? You betcha. But it was also another thing, from the way it looks to me: It was a classic show-within-a-show!

A few weeks back, when Jessi and her partner-in-crime, **Dan Levy**, appeared on the cover of *Eye Weekly*, she was most eloquent in the interview found inside.

Said she, about the work she does as a critical analyst of the California-glossed *The Hills*, "There's a seemingly airbrushed perfection, and we're definitely not like that at all. It helps send a message to the 12-year-old girls that maybe you shouldn't aspire to be like them. We're putting that superficiality in

perspective."

## MEANWHILE, I SEE, I HEAR

That it's sheer pizza hysteria on Ossington. So popular is that newbie Neapolitan Pizzeria Libretto — begun by **Rocco Agostino** and **Max Rimaldi** — that, on average lately, people have been looking at 45 minutes for a table.

That Nyood/Kultura chef **Roger Mooking** — the only cook in town with a Juno — not only has a new baby at home, but an upcoming new Food Network show, plus a new CD! No wonder there's a big bash in the buzzy chef's honour next Friday.

That **Adrienne Clarkson** showed she's a true Neat-freak when she appeared this week at a store opening, of all things, on Queen. The ex-GG did the party scene at the so-called Neat, a storage-oriented store that's said to have "solutions for even the worst clutterbug."

That powerhouse **Nelly Furtado** is bringing her friends to The Carlu on Oct. 16 for the most intimate of concerts — all for the very good cause that is the Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club! Tix are \$1,000 a piece, and further info is at 416-536-4102.

That there will be both drama and laughs — what with **Nicholas Campbell** and **Rick Mercer**

attending! — at The Company Theatre gala, set for the Windsor Arms next Thursday. It's where the not-so-shabby **Gordon Pinsent** is booked to receive the leg-breaking Award of Excellence.

## OH, AND ...

**John McCain's** Canada-based daughter — his eldest — was seen, but not heard, in the recent *People* story done on the Republican nominee's family.

**Sid McCain**, as I've mentioned once or twice before in this space, is the nicest person and based in Toronto but lives, more or less, on the margins of her dad's quest to become the leader of the most important country in the world. But, there she was on last week's *People*, mixing with her wide assortment of siblings, and playing along for a big, far-flung photo of The Clan.

So, she showed up and she smiled, but inside she does not speak. As the article expressly puts it, the McCain campaign would not allow interviews with the kids, "except for **Meghan**," the young thing who has become the de facto spokesperson for the presidential wannabe.

What we do learn, however? That the family's go-to-movie during Christmas get-togethers is that 1963 comedy classic, *It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*.

## FINALLY, AND DID I MENTION?

**Wayne Gretzky** was in Yoda mode last week when he swept into the Metro

Toronto Convention Centre to give a speech to the Economic Club of Canada. When asked about the meta-subject of "luck", he replied, point-blank, "You make your own luck, no question about it."

Wearing a red tie and plenty of ease, the Great One, I noticed, spent at least the first 10 minutes of his speech with one hand in his pocket. Very **Alanis**. Both hands did come into circulation, though, around the time things switched to the Q&A portion, and a man, getting the nod, arose cheekily. "It's my 40th birthday," he said. "And that's my question."

"Happy Birthday," managed Gretzky, right on cue, to the star-struck gent. "But I'm not going to sing for you."

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